

**Lewis and Clark County Mental Health Local Advisory Council**  
**Intermountain Conference Room**  
**Tuesday, September 11, 2018, 1:00 p.m.**

**Mission Statement:** The purpose of the LAC is to assist in the improvement of Lewis and Clark County public mental health services and to review and make recommendations about Lewis and Clark County's public mental health services to the Lewis and Clark County Commissioners, as well as provide input and recommendations to the State of Montana's Mental Health Oversight Advisory Council (MHOAC) and the State of Montana's Service Area Authorities (SAA) serving the community.

**Minutes**

**I. Call to Order**

Jill Steeley called the meeting to order and led introductions throughout the room.

Members in Attendance: Jill Steeley (Chair), Matt Furlong (Vice Chair), John Wilkinson (Past Chair), Jon Jackson, Cory Bailey, Andy Hunthausen, Gary Mihelish, Ray Roberts, Katie Jerstad, Brian Coplin, Drenda Niemann, and Michelle Marshal.

Guests in Attendance: Dan Krause, Marcia McBeath, Annie Maxiner, Bob Stewart, Michael Accardi, Berta Halverson, Jodi Marsh, Dennis Nyland, Brandy Vail, Alison Munson, Jeff Krott, Sue Noem, and Maddie Spickard.

Staff in Attendance: Kellie McBride and Jocelyn Olsen

**II. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

August 7, 2018 minutes were approved as presented.

**III. Transition of Officer Positions – Jill Steeley**

Officers were introduced in their new roles: Jill Steeley as Chair, Matt Furlong as Vice Chair, and John Wilkinson as Past Chair. Each of these members serve on the LAC Steering Committee along with Drenda Niemann and Jocelyn Olsen.

**IV. Review LAC Strategic Plan – Jill Steeley**

In December 2017, the LAC created a strategic plan based on the goals and objectives listed in the LAC Bylaws. During this session, three workgroups were formed to work on the three themes diagnosed.

Jill identified each group as well as group membership among present members and interested parties. All present were encouraged to join a workgroup(s) if they have not done so already. LAC membership is not a requirement to sit on a workgroup.

Each workgroup should be meeting once per month and have a designated person who is able to report at general LAC meetings and take minutes.

**V. Workgroup Updates**

**a. Workgroup Three – Matt Furlong**

This group has established a map of services and begun to identify gaps in community mental health services. They are looking at the 2-1-1 system as a way to help fill the gaps, working with the United Way to identify next steps in putting this system to use.

Allison Munson provided an update on the 2-1-1 system: United Way has a student from Carroll College completing a work study to help create the timeline, gather information from service providers to populate the database, and work with Voices of Hope to learn how to answer phones.

**b. Workgroup Two – Kellie McBride**

Jess Hegstrom (absent) is the leader of this group which has adopted Man Therapy as their current focus. Man Therapy will launch on September 28, 2018 at the Lewis and Clark Brewery.

Andy Hunthausen put out a call for more individuals to join this workgroup.

Jill Steele requested that this group also ensure there is open communication with the MHOAC and SAA utilizing the template provided on the County website.

Action Item: Kellie McBride or Jess Hegstrom will send out an email to all current participants and those who expressed interest regarding next meeting date.

**c. Workgroup One – John Wilkinson**

The goal of this group is to look at accessibility, effectiveness, and quality of mental health services. Before the summer, a mapping process was completed outlining common experiences of children and adults navigating a mental health crisis, including what occurs during the first contact at St. Peter's Hospital Emergency Room.

To assist in the process at the ER regarding a mental health crisis, there will soon be peers at the ER to sit with those admitted (someone that is not the CRT or Law Enforcement). Additionally, Western Montana Mental Health Center will soon accept medical clearances from community health providers, in addition to the ER, for admittance to Journey Home.

Drenda Niemann stated the Mayor's Challenge-Suicide Prevention Workgroup, led by Michelle Marshal, is also looking at crisis mapping and suggested that this information be shared among groups.

ACTION ITEM: Sue Noem will bring statistics from the ER to the next Workgroup One meeting.

**VI. Membership – Jill Steeley**

There are vacancies on the council including two family member/consumer positions, two school representatives, and one representative from St. Peter's Hospital (Sue Noem agreed to fill this position).

Mike Noble resigned from his position with the LAC – thank you to Mike for his dedication to the council.

**VII. Criminal Justice Services Workgroup – Kellie McBride**

Earlier in the month, County Attorney Leo Gallagher called a meeting to discuss mental health help for individuals once they are released from the County Detention Center, which provided affirmation that Criminal Justice Services Department is going in the right direction. CJS has budgeted money in mental health services and are looking to hire a mental health coordinator who will be able to connect those released from the Detention Center, including Pretrial defendants and Department of Corrections offenders, to mental health resources in the community.

The LAC agreed to establish a short-term workgroup dedicated to gathering community input in creating the Mental Health Coordinator job description.

ACTION ITEM: Kellie McBride will take the lead for this group and reach out to all interested individuals to schedule a meeting.

**VIII. Discussion on Same Topic Meetings**

Tabled for next meeting.

**IX. Public Comment**

Brian Coplin shared that he has been in crisis for the past three years and needs some assistance so he can get back to helping others get out of crisis. Brian will be having a Raise the Roof party to gather people to help him complete re-construction of his home.

In the next 2 weeks, Journey Home should be able to accept clients from other providers, not just the Emergency Room.

The county now has a Suicide Prevention webpage: <https://lcsuicideprevention.org/>

**X. Next Meeting: October 2, 2018**

**XI. Adjourn**

Meeting was adjourned at 2:02pm.